



A riffle on the Tuolumne River in Stanislaus County.

Award Amount
\$250,000

Watershed
Tuolumne River Watershed

County
Stanislaus County

CALFED Region
San Joaquin Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 18
State Assembly: 17 and 26
State Senate: 12

Purpose

Integrate existing plans, activities, and projects into a single comprehensive Integrated Plan for the Tuolumne River Initiative.

Project Goals

- Maintain the Lower Tuolumne River Coalition as a forum for stakeholder coordination of projects.
- Integrate existing plans and projects with multiple objectives into a single integrated plan to improve the opportunity to maximize the benefits of each project and plan.
- Build local networks and capacity by engaging members of the community in watershed management.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Tuolumne River is the largest tributary in the San Joaquin River Basin and supports fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) states that an investment in the Tuolumne River Watershed during initial implementation will provide direct benefits to the river and dependent fish and wildlife resources, and help set the stage for subsequent implementation phases. Implementation of this project is successfully coordinating watershed management activities for the lower Tuolumne River. This coordinated effort will help to ensure success for individual organizations and for the ERPP and CALFED Program.

Project Overview

Many entities have developed plans and are implementing projects related to ecosystem restoration, recreational opportunity enhancement, and flood management of the Tuolumne River. Although these plans are generally mutually supportive, the Tuolumne River Initiative (Initiative) is working to ensure coordination of the various efforts and create one overall plan that will provide guidelines for future related projects. The Tuolumne River Technical Advisory Committee's Habitat Restoration Plan for the Lower Tuolumne River Corridor forms the scientific and technical basis for this integrated plan.

The Tuolumne River Watershed presently offers the surrounding community limited opportunities to learn about the river, its habitats, and its watershed. Energy and ideas for watershed management lie untapped within the community because of the lack of a forum to engage individuals or entities. This project creates a forum to share ideas and coordinate efforts.

The project has several goals. The first goal is to maintain the Initiative as a forum for coordination of projects along the river and collaborate with the involved entities and individuals for support and guidance in implementing projects. The second goal is to engage more members of the community in watershed management in the Lower Tuolumne River Watershed and in this way to build local networks and capacity.

The most tangible outcome of this project is the integrated plan itself, which contains a "roadmap" for ongoing and potential projects and management in the Tuolumne River corridor. It also creates a functional network of local entities with interests and responsibilities related to the Tuolumne River and its watershed. The network and connections also include other watersheds that are undertaking similar processes or addressing similar goals.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cranes on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, where 12,887 acres have been set aside as year-round wetland habitat.

Contact Information

Jenna Olsen
Tuolumne River Preservation Trust
914 Thirteenth Street
Modesto, CA 95354
Telephone: (209) 996-4652
E-mail: jenna@tuolumne.org